



CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF ATHLETIC DIRECTORS, INC.

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Testimony for:

SB 229 – AN ACT CONCERNING SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST PREVENTION

My name is Fred Balsamo I am Wallingford resident and I manage the coaching education program for the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC), Connecticut Association of Athletic directors (CAAD) and the Connecticut High School Coaches Association (CHSCA). I am also the executive director of CAAD, which represents the athletic directors in 188 high school and 150 middle school athletic programs across the state and I am a Certified Red Cross First Aid/CPR Instructor.

I have dedicated most of my career in the development of educational programs for coaches to insure the safety of our student-athletes in Connecticut. We have the most stringent coaching permit and coaching education requirements in the country which among many other things requires all coaches to maintain current first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). In addition to cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and rescue breathing CPR courses include signs, symptoms and prevention of heart attacks, causes of heart disease, breathing emergencies such as choking and the proper method for obtaining medical treatment for a student in distress. Also, many courses now include training in the use of an AED machine. Additionally, non-teacher coaches by statute must take a 45 clock hour course which includes 15 hours of instruction on the medical aspects of interscholastic coaching. During those 15 hours our course covers sudden cardiac arrest in great detail. Furthermore, this law places the onus for implementation and notification on the coach rather than the school district that has many more resources to deal with these requirements. This will cause coaches to leave the profession where there is already a shortage of qualified individuals.

Lastly, the wording on lines 87-89 & 108-111 allowing a student to return to play and requiring a parent to be notified within 24 hours if their child has had a sudden cardiac event seems to be language used from HB 5113 (Concussions) and certainly should not be applied here. Students should not be allowed to return to play following a sudden cardiac event and parents should be notified as soon as possible should their child have such an event.

CAAD believes that because of the state laws that already exist that require coaches to have extensive ongoing education and continual first aid & CPR training. The portions of this law that place additional requirements on coaches would seem to create an unnecessary burden.

Sincerely,

Fred Balsamo

Fred Balsamo, CMAA

Testimony for HB 5113 and SB 229

Dear Members of the Children's Committee and Legislative Leaders,
The Connecticut Coaching Education Program and the Connecticut Association of Athletic
Directors have serious concerns about the language in both of these Bills.

The Connecticut concussion legislation spearheaded by Senator Looney in 2010 requires the most extensive concussion education course required for coaches in the country. The Connecticut course covers the signs and symptoms of concussions and the chemical cascade effect that occurs in the brain during the concussed state, it covers other brain injuries such as brain bleeds and skull fractures, scalp and neck injuries. The course explains the law, the requirements of removing an athlete from participation and the revocation process for failure to follow all aspects of the law. It thoroughly explains Second Impact Syndrome and Post Concussion Syndrome. It also trains the coach in an extensive "return to play protocol" which is annually reviewed with all coaches.

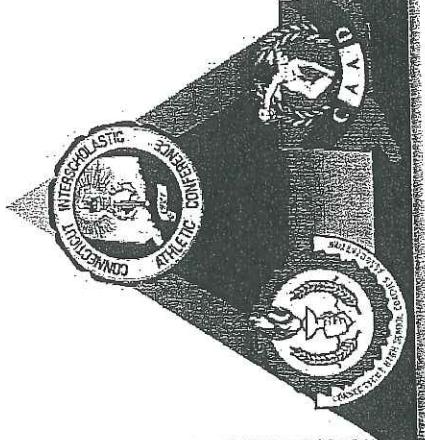
The concussion law, the extensive coaching education requirements and the recent actions and mandates put out by the CIAC requiring concussion education for parents, students & referees and limiting contact in football practice far exceeds what is being done in other states and is more than adequately serving and insuring the safety of our student-athletes in the state of Connecticut

Please see the attached documents pertaining to HB 5113 & SB 229 that I will address in my testimony tomorrow.

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For more CAAD and CCEP info:
www.caadinc.org or <http://www.ctcoachinged.org/>
For CT State Department Forms
<http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2613&q=321402>

Connecticut Coaching Education Program

CONNECTICUT COACHING EDUCATION PROGRAM



SDE Approved Module Offerings (3 Hours Each)

Module 1 Revised	Coaching Principles & Practice – Philosophy, Motivation and Character	Module 16	Proper Use of Electronic Media by Coaches
Module 2	Communication, Public Revised Relations and Organization	Module 17	Dealing with Parents of Athletes
Module 3 Revised	Safety Rules, Care & Prevention of Athletic Injuries	Module 18	Dealing with the College Bound Athlete
Module 4	Legal Aspects of Interscholastic Coaching I – (14 Duties)	Module 19	The Impact of Ethical Standards on Youth
Module 5	CIAC Rules and Regulation	Module 50	Swimming Pool Safety Training for Swim Coaches and PE Instructors
Module 6	Legal Aspects of Interscholastic Coaching II - Revocation, Hazing, Harassment	Module 51	CIAC Safety Training for Football Coaches (under development)
Module 7	CIAC Guide To the Roles and Responsibilities of a Coach	Module 52	CSAC Safety Training for Cheerleading (under development)
Module 8	Strength & Conditioning Design for Interscholastic Athletic Programs	Module 78	Coaching at the Middle School Level
Module 9	Sport Psychology for Interscholastic Coaches	Module 101	Fundamentals of Coaching Online -6 Hours
Module 10	Gender Equity & Diversity Awareness for Coaches		
Module 11	Coaching the Female Athlete		
Module 12	All-Adult Construct of Coaching		
Module 13	Nutrition, Performing Enhancing Supplements		
Module 14	Emergency & Critical Incident Response for Interscholastic Athletic Programs		
Module 15	Concussion Management		

An Affiliation of:

Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference
Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors
Connecticut High School Coaches Association

*Providing Coaches with the
Necessary Education
to Obtain Their
5 Year Renewable
Coaching Permit
& 15 Hours of
Continuing Education*

Online Modules

CCEP now offers online modules for your convenience.
More info can be found at www.ctcoachinged.org

All Module workshops will be conducted at the CIAC building located at 30 Realty Drive Cheshire, CT 06410.

For specific Module offerings and information go to www.ctcoachinged.org

Coaching Education Made "User Friendly"

The Alliance

In June 2007 an agreement was reached among the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Association (CIAC), the Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors (CAAD), and the Connecticut High School Coaches Association (CHSCA) merging the coaching education efforts of each organization into a unified program. This alliance, now called the Connecticut Coaching Education Program (CCEP), is under the direction of Fred Balsamo. The aims of the program are to provide coaches and school athletic administrators more opportunities to access the 45 hour coaching permit course and other CEU workshops, to assist in the tracking and data entry of coaches, and to dispel confusion for people going through the coaching certification process.

More Offerings

Through the combined efforts of the Alliance, the CCEP will provide coaches and athletic directors increased opportunities to receive relevant and pertinent coaching modules that will enhance the quality of coaching high school athletes and underscore the important role they play in teaching the values inherent in participating in high school athletics.

The 45 hour permit course will continue to be offered each semester on Wednesday evenings at CIAC. Also, additional classes will be designed to better fit the busy schedules of coaches. For example, this past summer the CCEP sponsored a "power" class covering the 45 hours in just 6 days. Based on the positive evaluations received, this class will be offered periodically throughout the year. In addition, "satellite" programs modifying times and days to fit specific situations will be developed in different locations in the state.

All workshops offered in the past by CIAC, CAAD and the CHSCA will now be referred to as "modules" and each assigned a number. This will help coaches better understand what they have completed and prevent duplication. New modules are also being developed in order to meet the needs of schools and their coaches. Current modules as well as those being developed are listed in this brochure.

"User Friendly"

Data Entry & Tracking

Merging the existing data bases of the three organizations is now completed. The end result is a site with access for coaches and athletic directors. The centralized data base will also be made available to the State Department of Education which will make its auditing efforts of coaches less cumbersome and more accurate. To see what you have taken with the CCEP visit www.ctcoachinged.org/CEU.html, then click on "Search Data Base".

Dispelling Confusion

In addition to generating additional course offerings and merging data, the coaching education office is now available to handle calls to help coaches and member schools with their coaching education questions. Fred Balsamo staffs the office daily and can be contacted directly at (203) 651-3921. Additionally, the CIAC website has been made easier to navigate by the creation of a separate page for the Connecticut Coaching Education Program. This permits online registrations for the 45 hour coaching permit course and other coaching modules.

If you have any questions or suggestions as to how the Connecticut Coaching Education Program can better serve you, please don't hesitate to call Fred Balsamo (203) 651-3921 or email at fbalsamo@casdiac.org.

